

CROW INDIAN TRIBE



Resources Report

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WILDLIFE

(Based on Crow Tribe Resource Development and Land Use Plan, Rocky Mountain Research 1977)

As a result of a review of published information and from discussions with Crow tribal members, it is estimated that 79 species of mammals, 260 species of birds, five species of amphibians, 14 species of reptiles, and 19 species of fish are found on the Crow reservation at some time during the year. Most of these species are non-game wildlife. Big game species include pronghorn antelope, elk, white-tailed and mule deer, buffalo, and black bear. *Figures 18 and 19* depict big game habitat on the reservation. *Table 14* provides estimates of the number of acres of habitat on the reservation for each of the above-mentioned species.

TABLE 14	
ACRES OF BIG GAME HABITAT	
CROW RESERVATION	
Species	Habitat Acres
Elk	478,080
Bear	967,680
Antelope	1,635,840
White-Tailed Deer	322,560
Mule Deer	2,125,440
Source: Crow Tribe Resource Development and Land Use Plan, Rocky Mountain Research 1977	

Upland game birds include Merriam's turkey, mourning dove, blue grouse, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, chukar partridge, ring-necked pheasant, and gray partridge. Small game animals include white-tailed jackrabbit, snowshoe hare and mountain cottontail.

Fur bearers on the reservation include: Beaver, muskrat, lynx, bobcat, black bear, raccoon, red fox, coyote, badger, striped skunk, western spotted skunk, mink, ermine, and long-tailed weasel.

There is a possibility that five endangered species of wildlife may at times be found on the reservation. These are the grizzly bear, gray wolf, black-footed ferret, whooping crane and peregrine falcon. It is unlikely that any of these endangered mammals do now occur on the reservation. The black-footed ferret is the most likely and yet there is slight hope for this occurrence.

BIG GAME HABITAT ON THE CROW INDIAN RESERVATION

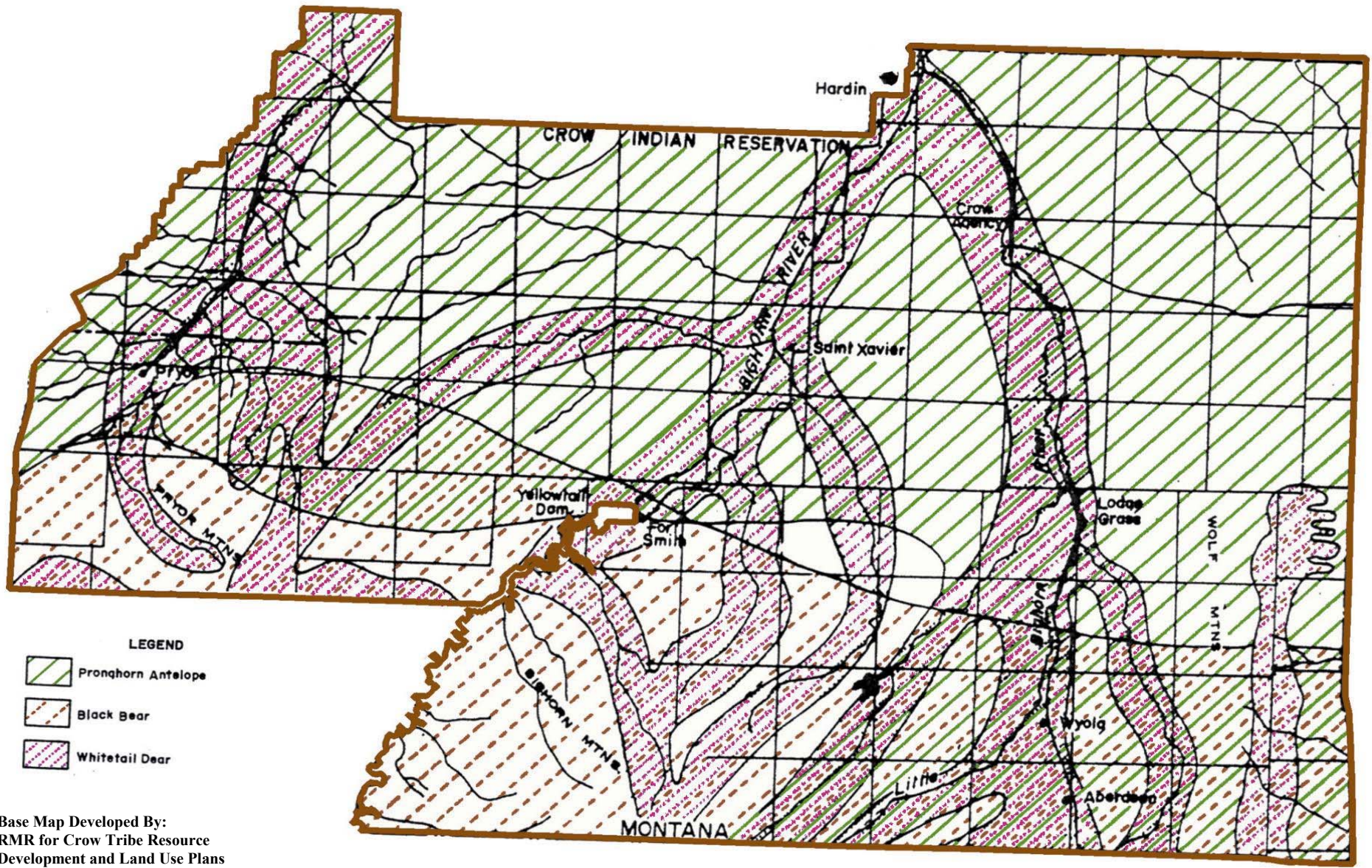


Figure 18
Big Game Habitat A



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Billings, Montana



BIG GAME HABITAT ON THE CROW INDIAN RESERVATION

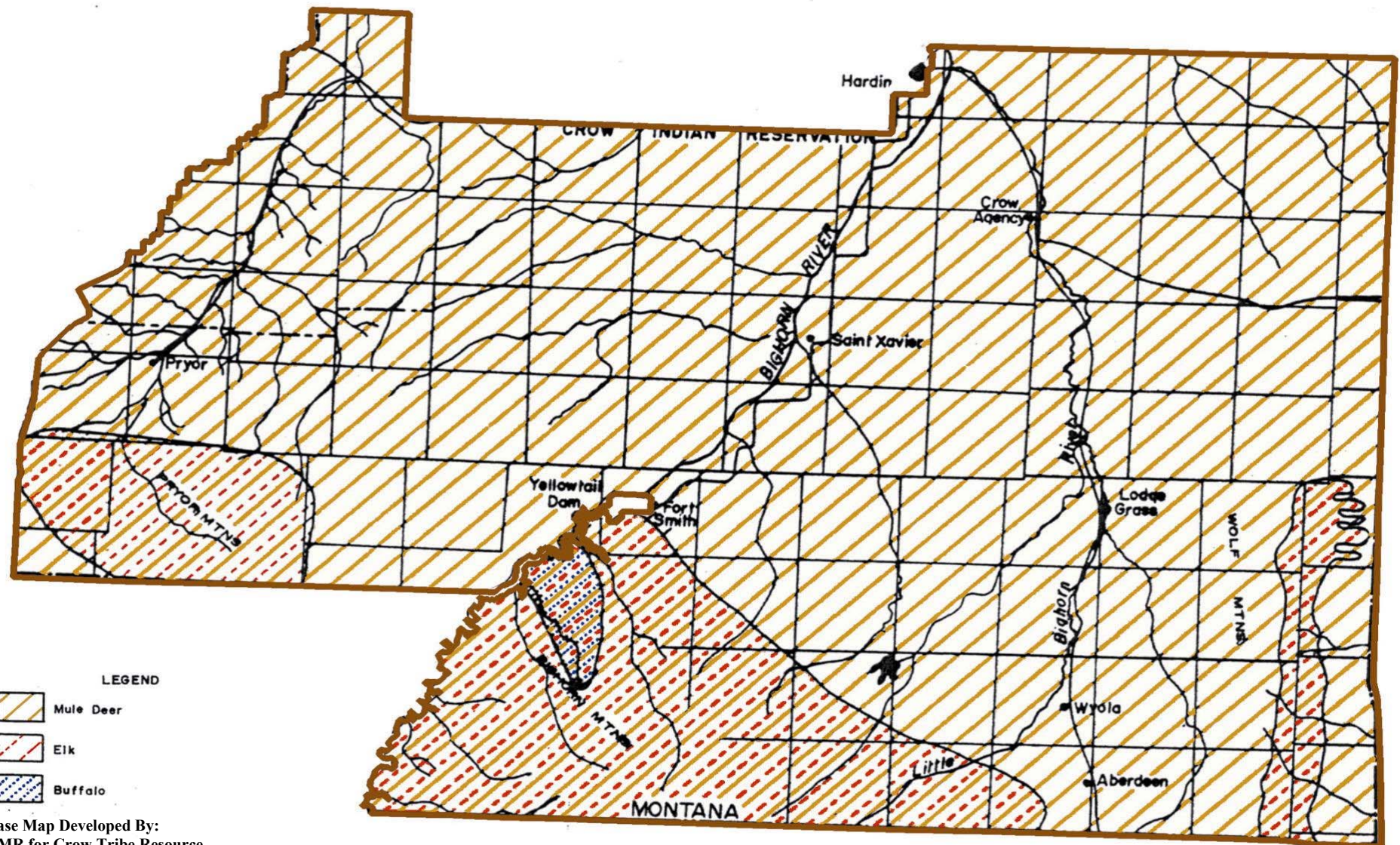


Figure 19
Big Game Habitat B



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When present, black-footed ferrets are found in conjunction with prairie dogs and populations of these rodents have been seriously reduced on the reservation. Whooping cranes and peregrine falcons may migrate through the Crow Reservation in the spring and fall in route to their breeding and wintering habitats.

Many kinds of rodents are found on the reservation. The prairie dog is an important species because of its relationship as prey for the endangered black-footed ferret. The coyote is the primary predator on the reservation, but bobcats and mountain lions are reported to be present.

Raptorial birds are common throughout the area. American kestrels, marsh hawks and red-tailed hawks are rather common and nest reservation. Both bald and golden eagles occur on the Crow Reservation. Bald eagles generally are found most frequently along the Bighorn River. Both species nest on the reservation. Prairie falcons are uncommon but probably nest on the reservation.